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**Series of articles in the Monterey County Herald underlines key role
IBIS has played in solving numerous gun-related crimes in California**

Forensic Technology wishes to acknowledge the efforts of a journalist in California, who through well researched articles, was able to identify the two vital aspects of Forensic Technology's IBIS technology, namely its capacity to help solve crime in a given city through state-of-the-art ballistics imaging, and its added-value in allowing all police departments to electronically pool their evidence.

More specifically, a newspaper in California has published a series of articles pertaining to the prevalence of gun violence in Monterey County, California. In particular, reporter Julia Reynolds penned two articles entitled "In Salinas, guns used in crimes get around", and "Community gun covered a lot of ground", which were published respectively on September 10th and 11th, 2006. The articles contain a detailed account of the current state of gun-related crime in the city of Salinas, CA.

The city of Salinas, which has a population of approximately 150 000, has had a steadily increasing number of shootings and gun-related crimes in recent years. During the last decade, a staggering 4,000 serious firearm crimes have been reported in Salinas. However, the silver lining is that law enforcement efforts have been successful in this city, which is in large part due to the Salinas Police Department's effective and efficient use of IBIS technology.

In 2001, detectives from the Salinas Police Department were sending shell casings to a ballistics laboratory in neighboring Santa Clara County. It quickly became apparent that Salinas was confronted with a major gun violence problem. Indeed, 75% of the Santa Clara County laboratory's preliminary matches, which are referred to as hits and which link two crimes together, were from gun crimes committed in the city of Salinas.

In exemplary fashion, in 2002, the Salinas Police Department decided to operate its own ballistics laboratory using Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) technology. IBIS technology, which was created by Forensic Technology, effectively finds the "needle in the haystack", suggesting possible matches between pairs of spent bullets and cartridge cases at speeds well beyond human capacity in order to help forensic experts give detectives more timely information about crimes, guns, and suspects.

As aptly pointed out by the above-mentioned articles, the Salinas Police Department's ballistics laboratory has now become a success story. The firearms examiner, Mr. Stephen O'Clair, has made excellent use of the IBIS technology at his disposal, and has thus, in several cases, provided Salinas investigators with vital clues that would not have been found otherwise. As an example, the article confirms that there have been instances where a particular firearm used in violent crime, although never retrieved by law enforcement, was nonetheless linked to over ten (10) distinct cases through the proper use of IBIS.

Despite the success IBIS has produced in Salinas, a more significant number of matches could be obtained if appropriate processes are put in place to promote collaboration between neighboring police communities. Indeed, the ultimate power of IBIS technology resides in its ability to allow networking. Information that may seem unimportant to a particular police force may very well be the case-breaker for another police department. For this reason, the September 11th article cites Mr. O'Clair, who urges other cities in Monterey County to utilize and profit from the Salinas ballistics laboratory. The Salinas ballistics expert, Mr. O'Clair, states: "If more cities in Monterey County sent their crime guns to the Salinas bullet identification lab, more matches might be found. It's not like the shooters stop at the city limits."

To view the Monterey County Herald articles mentioned above, click here:

<http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/montereyherald/news/15485577.htm>

<http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/montereyherald/living/community/15502311.htm>

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To view numerous IBIS success stories, click here:

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